



Dedication

This book is dedicated to:
All the members of the AVKO Educational Research Foundation, but especially to the memory of one of its first members,

Mary Clair Scott

without whose work and devotion to the cause of literacy, the AVKO Foundation might never have gotten off the ground,

Betty June Szilagyi

who was my first and by far my most important teacher,

Devorah Wolf

without whose encouragement and commitment to the ideals of AVKO this edition would not be possible,

Ann, Robert, and Linda McCabe

all of whom have sacrificed much of their time and energy helping AVKO grow as well as all those friends and relatives who have been a source of encouragement.

May this book help you to help others improve their abilities to read and write.

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The Basic Concepts of Teaching Spelling by Word Families

Many teachers as well as home school parents have used the concept of teaching rhyming words that have the same letter endings to help their students learn to read. When they would introduce the word at, they would also teach cat, bat, sat, and maybe even scat. Unfortunately, parents and teachers have never had any source book for finding all the rhyming words with the same spelling patterns. In the latest academic jargon, word families are now called "rimes." The consonants, consonant blends, and digraphs that precede the word family (or rime) are now called onsets. Use whichever term you wish with your students. In this book, we generally use the

terms base or word family rather than the new jargon word "rime."

The Patterns of English Spelling (formerly Word Families Plus) is now available to be used as a resource book so that a parent or teacher can teach any word family. It is not just a simple collection of word lists. It consists of the complete patterns to help the students (and quite often the parents and teachers!) see the patterns that exist and to lock in on those patterns with their computer brains. For example, AVKO believes that if you can teach your students (or anyone) the word at, you can also teach them:

b at c at	bats cats	batted	batting		
scat	scats				
flat	flats	flatted	flatting		
pat	pats	patted	patting		
spat	spats				
mat	mats	matted	matting		
rat	rats	ratted	ratting		
b at ter fl at ter m at ter	batters flatters matters	battered flattered mattered	battering flattering mattering	battery flattery	batteries
b at tle c at tle	battles	battled	battling		
rattle	rattles	rattled	rattling		

or for a more sophisticated example, from the word act you can build:

		_			
act	acts	acted	acting	active	action
fact	facts				4
tract	tracts				traction
attr act	attracts	attracted	attracting	attractive	attraction
distract	distracts	distracted	distracting		distraction
extr act	extracts	extracted	extracting	extractive	extraction
subtract	subtracts	subtracted	subtracting		subtraction
contract	contracts	contracted	contracting		contraction